(d) whether a rule is likely to be framed providing that no person can be appointed as Chairperson for more than two terms; and

(e) whether Government proposes to make a provision for appointing SDM/DC as the Chairperson in case Sanskrit scholars are not available?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Under the scheme of financial assistance to institutions recognized as Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodh Sansthans, some of which are also known as Vidhyapeeths, the Chairman of the Managing Committee for the Mahavidyalaya/Shodh Sansthans, is nominated by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the existing Guidelines, the Chairman, can be nominated for a second term also. At present there is no proposal to amend the guideline.

(e) No, Sir.

Rise in prices of books

†*460. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while on one hand Government is making structural changes in education and on the other hand private publishers are hiking the prices of children's books exorbitantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to check the prices of stationery and books; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) There is no specific information with Government about the exorbitant hike in the prices of children's books by private publishers. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) publishes textbooks for Classes I to XII for all subjects in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. These textbooks are based on National Curriculum Framework, 2005, and are attractive, student-friendly and inexpensive. Despite being printed in good quality paper and in two to four colours, these books are very reasonably priced. The prices of these textbooks from Classes I to VIII do not exceed Rs. 30/- per copy, while textbooks for Classes IX to XII are also priced very reasonably.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) generally prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT for all Classes. In respect of those subjects for which the syllabus has been prescribed by CBSE and where CBSE has prepared its own textbooks, the prices of such books are reasonable.

Several State Governments have adopted or adapted NCERT textbooks.

Under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), free textbooks are provided to children with a ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- per child at upper primary level.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Airlines

3346. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the background details and the process which culminated into merger of all erstwhile Government-owned airlines into one entity *i.e.*, Air India, indicating profile of the Directors who constituted the respective Boards at each phase of their merger;

(b) the details of expenses incurred in each stage alongwith the merger process *e.g.*, painting of new logos, features of stationeries, dresses of on-board crew and of employees on ground etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had appointed consultants for designing uniform of on-board crew members; and

(d) if so, the profile of consultants, job entrusted to each and fees paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ms. Ritu Beri a renowned fashion designer, was entrusted with the job of designing a new uniform for female cabinet crew and female ground staff. No fee for consultancy was paid. However, an expenditure of Rs. 86,54,600/- was incurred initially for procuring uniforms designed by Ms. Beri for the cabin crew and female ground staff and ties for crew.

Construction of international airport at Jaipur

†3347. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work for the construction of new building and runway of international standard at international airport, Jaipur and by when it would be opened for the passengers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.